

**In the Claims:**

1-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

an insulating housing that holds contacts, a shielding shell that is externally mounted on the insulating housing, and a conductive latching arm that is disposed on an outside of the shielding shell for engagement with a mating connector,

the latching arm having a front end fastened to an end portion of the shielding shell, and a rear end positioned adjacent to a surface of the shielding shell so that the rear end can slide on the surface of the shielding shell, the latching arm has an engaging part which is located near the front end of the latching arm, the engaging part cooperates with a mating engaging part of the mating connector, the latching arm has a pressing part which is located on a rear part of the latching arm, and

the shielding shell includes protruding parts formed to hold the rear end of the latching arm adjacent to the surface of the shielding shell.

7. (previously amended) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 6, wherein the latching arm has a shallow inverted v-shape.

8. (previously amended) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 7, wherein the engaging part of the latching arm has an engaging hole that is formed in a forward-facing surface of the latching arm.

9. (previously amended) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 8, wherein the pressing part is located on a rearward-facing surface of the latching arm, the pressing part is inclined toward the rear end of the latching arm.

10. (previously amended) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 9, wherein a covering enclosure is formed on the outside of the shielding shell with an end portion of the shielding shell being exposed, the covering enclosure has finger-catch part on the rearward-facing surface that is engageable to push the rearward-facing surface.

11. (previously added) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 6, wherein the front end of the latching arm includes tongue parts protruding from both sides of the front end.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously added) An electrical connector comprising:  
an insulating housing having contacts,  
a shielding shell externally mounted on the insulating housing,  
a conductive latching arm disposed on an outside surface of the shielding shell, the latching arm having a front end fastened to the shielding shell and a rear end arranged on the outside surface of the shielding shell such that the rear end slides on the outside surface, the latching arm having an engaging part which is located near the front end of the latching arm, the engaging part cooperates with a mating engaging part of a mating connector, the latching arm has a pressing part which is located on the rear part of the latching arm, and  
a covering enclosure is formed on the outside of the shielding shell, the covering enclosure having a finger-catch part that is engageable to push the pressing part to release the mating engaging part from the engaging part.

14. (previously added) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 13, wherein the latching arm has a shallow inverted v-shape.

15. (previously added) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 13, wherein the front end of the latching arm includes tongue parts protruding from both sides of the front end.

16. (previously added) The electrical connector as recited in Claim 13, wherein the shielding shell includes protruding parts formed to hold the rear end of the latching arm adjacent to the outside surface of the shielding shell.